

2013 - 2014 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

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SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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I. Executive Summary

The Student Government Association of Salve Regina University serves to foster an environment of which responds to student concern and achievement; facilitate responsible and effective student participation in the University community; represent the interests of the student body; and to enhance educational, social and cultural opportunities by acting as a liaison between the student body and the University faculty staff, and administration.

Representation of the Student Body

In the 2013-2014 year the Student Government Association represented the student voice on nearly 20 University committees and search teams, a full list of which can be found on page 6. This representation is consistent year after year among standing committees. In the past year we have seen greater inclusion of the student voice in both search and temporary committees.

Outreach & Student Engagement

- Friday Night Live Halloween Event/ Meet Your Senator Night
- o 300+ attendees, over 40 comments collected
- > Open Forum
- Key finding: 90% of open forum attendees agree or strongly agree that SGA is responsive to the needs & concerns of the student body.
- Coffee Talk
- Key findings: Continuing need for increased marketing of SGA. Off campus students appreciative of emails from Senators.
- Graduation Fair
- 200+ attendees. Identified as key senior-year experience to be coordinated by Dr. Donna Cook in the coming year.

Highlights & Successes

- The Student Organization Recognition Committee approved 7 additional clubs this academic year; Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Student Advocates for Integrated Life Sciences (SAILS), Red Watch Band, Global Citizens, Students for Mercy, Men's Rugby, and Chemistry Club, and now recognizes a grand total of 59 student clubs and organizations.
- The Activities Funding Board (AFB) allocated over \$250,000 from the student activities fee and heard over 25 requests from recognized student clubs and organizations.
- The Dining Services Committee addressed over 75 student concerns.

- Through the Safety & Security Subcommittee SGA representatives successfully advocated for the extension of shuttle hours one hour into the evening returning to campus on weekends, and recently submitted a recommendation to install additional emergency blue lights.
- Athletics and Recreation Ad Hoc Committee implemented suggestion boxes in recreational facilities, adjusted fitness center hours, and improved maintenance of athletic equipment.
- The Student Government Association successfully proposed 24-hour access to Antone Academic Center for the week immediately preceding and the week of final exams.
- In conjunction with the Dean of Students Office, SGA developed the Chief Justice position, a member of the SGA executive board that will chair the Student Conduct Hearing Board.
- After extensive work on the part of Salve staff and administration at the request of SGA, Gammel Road (on the way to Conley Residence Hall) now includes lighting.
- The Student Government Association reviewed a demonstration for CampusLabs™, involvement software which would enhance club communications, streamline club and organization funding request procedures and the recognition process. This software will also enhance the accessibility of all student activities, and thereby increases the involvement opportunities for all students. SGA drafted a letter in support of implementation, and further approved the use of student activities fee funds to support this purchase immediately.
- Amidst numerous student concerns, SGA administered a survey regarding the hours of the student mail room, and found student desired access to pick up packages on Saturday afternoons. Upon SGA's suggestion the Office of Student Activities is currently working with mail room staff to cross-train Wakehurst Building Managers to fill this need.
- SGA drafted a letter in support of the Bicycle Program previously supported by the NCAA CHOICES. As a result the University will continue to support the necessary employee and work study positions and student activities fee funds have been committed to support supplies.

Ongoing Projects

Based on student feedback, the Student Government Association has undertaken the following projects and will continue to make recommendations to the appropriate areas:

- Install and/or incorporate additional emergency blue lights.
- Install a printer in the lower level of Miley Hall; add office supplies to Miley Mart.
- Support distance students by providing opportunities to secure meals over breaks.
- Add a microwave to the lower level of Miley Hall.
- Continue to support the implementation of Involvement Software.

II. SGA Membership

The Student Government Association is made up of 23 student representatives elected by the undergraduate student body each year, and divided into two branches; the Executive Board and the Senate. The representatives of the 2013-2014 Student Government Association are:

Senate:

Senator Adriano Cirioli '17

Senator Allyssa Medeiros '17

Senator Elizabeth Bruno '14

Senator GinaMarie Tonini '17

Senator Jacqueline Crockwell '15

Senator John Brennan '17

Senator Julie Grant '16

Senator Madeleine Guerra '15

Senator Mary Chakerian '17

Senator Michael Marotta '17

Senator Mitchell Cremers '17

Senator Morgan Rayner '15

Senator Patricia Socarras '17

Senator Serena Lafond '16

Senator Shannon Hardy '17

Senator Shannon Soule '17

Senator Sofia Dias '16



Executive Board:

Vice President Peter Georges '15 Secretary Corilyn Henault '15 Treasurer Sean Garrity '16 Public Relations Coordinator Grace Kelly '14 President Jivanto van Hemert '14

III. Club & Organization Governance

Student Organization Recognition Committee (SORC)

The Student Organization Recognition Committee (SORC) oversees the recognition of all officially recognized student clubs & organizations on campus. This committee, comprised of SGA Senators, two staff or faculty members, and the Director of Student Activities reviews all club and organization applications to insure that the standards of the University are met, and that any Salve student is willfully able to join. Once approved, SORC delivers organizations that have satisfied the probationary period to the Activities Funding Board to receive funds. SORC continues its work once clubs & organizations are recognized by ensuring that all standards set forth in the club manual are met, and addresses situations in which this is not the case.

This semester SORC has updated the club and organization application packet to streamline the process. The following seven clubs were approved by SORC this academic year; Big Brothers Big Sisters, Student Advocates for Integrated Life Sciences (SAILS), Red Watch Band, Global Citizens, Students for Mercy, Men's Rugby, and Chemistry Club. Additionally, SORC reviewed and permitted constitutional changed for the Campus Activities Board (CAB). SORC currently recognizes 59 student clubs and organizations.

Activities Funding Board (AFB)

The Activities Funding Board, a standing committee of the Student Government Association chaired by the SGA Treasurer, is a body of Senators, two staff or faculty members, and the Director of Student Activities, who allocate money from the Student Activities Fee to student clubs and organizations. Clubs have the opportunity to submit budget proposals each spring as well as Supplemental Funding requests -- a detailed plan of an event or activity—throughout the year. Each request is analyzed by the members of AFB to ensure it is within the guidelines set forth by the University and other oversight bodies, and is then voted on for funding eligibility.

This year, AFB provided funded for each of the 59 recognized clubs & organizations on campus, allocating over \$250,000 since last spring as part of over 25 specialized requests. This year AFB encouraged clubs & organizations to spend all allocated monies to maximize the events and activities available for the student body, resulting in an increase of spending from all clubs and organizations. In yearly review AFB has amended its handbook and policies to allow for easier access to off-campus events and enable clubs to return to AFB multiple times for the same event in the event that pricing changes.

IV. Committees & Representation of the Student Voice

Current Areas of Student Involvement and Input

- Board of Trustees Academic/ Student Affairs Committee
- Vice President of Enrollment Services Search Committee & Student Leader Lunches
- Provost/ Dean of Faculty Student Leader Lunches
- O'Hare Renovation Feasibility Study Committee
- Director of Safety & Security Interview Team
- Director of Student Transitions Search Team
- Resident Advisory Council (RAC)
- Orientation Committee

- Academic Advisory Committee on Technology
- Multicultural Affairs Committee
- Parking Appeals Board
- Dining Services Subcommittee
- Information Technology Subcommittee
- Health Subcommittee
- Safety & Security Subcommittee
- Library Services Liaison
- Athletics & Recreation Ad Hoc Committee
- Commencement Planning Committee
- Behavioral Review Committee

Dining Services Subcommittee

The Dining Services Committee met bi-weekly with Sodexo General Manager, Mark Rodrigues, to address Salve Regina University student concerns throughout the year. Since September 2013, the Dining Services Committee has addressed over 75 constituent concerns, including an increase of available fruit, the implementation of oatmeal at Jazzman's Café, increased Mongolian Grill hours, and continued improvements to the MyZone area. In addition to addressing constituent concerns, the Dining Services Committee assisted in the advertisement of specialty nights in Miley Cafeteria, such as Mardi Gras and the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Safety & Security Subcommittee

The Safety & Security Subcommittee has worked closely with the Office of Safety & Security throughout the year on to increase the visibly and accessibility of Safety & Security Officers on campus. Due to the efforts and advocacy of this committee, shuttle hours will be extended one hour into the evening returning to campus on weekends to allow students greater access to safe travels in the coming semester. This committee has recently drafted a recommendation to ensure our students' safety by providing additional emergency blue light locations on campus through installing free standing blue-light structures as well as converting existing emergency phones at each residence hall.

Athletics & Recreation Ad Hoc Committee

Established in 2013-2014, the Athletics & Recreation Ad Hoc Committee allows members of SGA to meet frequently with members of Athletics administration, recreation, sports training, and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). With this informative setting the committee discusses basic recreational equipment needs for Rodgers Recreation Center and other athletic facilities as well as provides an avenue for suggestions to the overall training and athletics experience for students. In a joint effort the committee is acts as a liaison for both student-athletes and non-student-athletes in competitive, recreational, and personal athletic experiences here at Salve. On suggestion of this committee, they have implemented suggestion boxes in recreational facilities, adjusted fitness center hours, and improved maintenance of athletic equipment.

V. Special Projects:

Extension of Antone Academic Center Hours

In mid-October, an undergraduate art major reached out to the Student Government Association with concerns regarding the hours of Antone Academic Center. After discussion with the Art and Art History Guild SGA agreed with the assertion that an extension of hours



would improve art students ability to complete projects—particularly during the week before and the week of final exams. Thus, in spite of numerous failed attempts in recent history, and after working closely with the Provost's office, SGA successfully drafted a proposal requesting 24-hour access to Antone Academic Center for this two week period (comparable to the hours of McKillop Library during these weeks of the semester).

The administration agreed to pilot this opportunity during the fall semester of 2013, and experienced positive feedback. In light of the success of the pilot program, this practice will continue moving forward as we continue to expand the access we are able to provide our students.

Chief Justice Position

This year, the Student Government Association partnered with the Dean of Students office to develop a new Executive Board position of Chief Justice. This student will have the primary responsibility of chairing the new Student Conduct Hearing Board which will draw the student voice into the conduct review process by hearing individual cases and making recommendations to the Dean of Students. By developing this position as an integral

member of SGA we have fostered a link between yet another aspect of student involvement on campus. SGA believes this position and board will become a fundamental part of the campus community moving forward and will continue to satisfy the growing need for student involvement.

Lighting on Gammel Road

After extensive work on the part of Salve Regina staff and administration and at the request of the Student Government Association, Gammel Road (on the way to Conley Residence Hall) now includes lighting to ensure the safety & security of our students traveling this drive, particularly in the evening hours.

Involvement Software

The Student Government Association reviewed a demonstration for CampusLabs™, involvement software that would be integrated into the current student activities on campus. This software will allow clubs & organizations to have a single forum of communication within each club, between other clubs, with SGA club & organization oversight committees, as well as with the Office of Student Activities. This software promises to streamline both club and organization funding request procedures as well as the club and organization recognition process. This software will also enhance the accessibility of all student activities, and thereby increases the involvement opportunities for all students. SGA drafted a letter in support of this program, and approved the use of student activities fee funds for the purchase and implementation of this software.

Bike Program

On behalf of the student body the Student Government Association drafted a letter supporting the Bicycle Program previously supported by the NACA CHOICES grant. Asserting that this program is a critical resource for student satisfaction SGA advocated for the continuation of this opportunity and further recommended greater outreach efforts resulting in the posters (pictured right) displayed in residence halls this semester. As a result of this proposal the University will continue to support the necessary salaried employee and work study positions, and student activities funds have been committed to support the purchase of all necessary supplies.



Mail Room Hours

After receiving numerous comments and concerns regarding the hours of the student mail room the Student Government Association developed a survey to better identify the needs of the student body. 82 responses were received via both online and paper surveys. The results led the Student Government Association to propose the extension of student mailroom hours on Saturday afternoons—particularly during the peak times of noon to 3pm. Mail room staff responded receptively to this suggestion and are currently working with the Office of Student Activities to cross-train Building Managers to fill this role come Fall 2014.

McKillop Library

The McKillop Library staff continues to work diligently to ensure prompt and effective responses to student needs and concerns. Upon suggestion of the Student Government Association library staff attempted to develop a Student Advisory Board, but due to poor attendance opted to work with a Student Government liaison instead. This newly developed mode of communication has led to several developments including a community display space, a for-credit research instruction course; as well as expanded library hours.

VI. Outreach & Student Engagement

Activities & Events

Friday Night Live Halloween Event



In October 2013 the Student Government Association hosted a Friday Night Live (FNL) event on the lawn of and within Wakehurst Student Center. Activities included pumpkin decorating, a large selection of food, and a bonfire for students to toast s'mores with music for the evening. This Friday Night Live event gave students an opportunity to meet their representatives and provide comments through a designated

suggestion box. As the initial formal opening of dialogue between the Student Government Association and the student body this event drew over 300 student attendees.

Open Forum

The Student Government Association, once again, hosted an open forum in the fall for the entirety of the student body in O'Hare Academic Center. SGA Senators and Executive board members provided students in attendance with a review of the year's accomplishments todate and sought feedback on a variety of campus issues. During this forum statistical data

was collected reflecting that 90% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that SGA is responsive to the needs and concerns of the student body, and furthermore that 86% agree or strongly agree that SGA has an active presence in the majority of changes that are made on our campus. The comments and concerned raised at this event were brought to the next SGA meeting and assigned to committees for further examination and follow-up.

90% of open forum attendees agree or strongly agree that SGA is responsive to the need & concerns of the student body.

Coffee Talk

A similar open forum was held during the spring semester targeted towards upperclassmen, commuters, and off-campus students. This forum was held at Tea's and Java's, a local coffee shop, and provided students an opportunity to enjoy coffee and supply feedback in a casual setting. The results from this event were also brought to the next SGA meeting and assigned to committees for additional review.

Graduation Fair

The Student Government Association, once again, hosted a Graduation Fair for the class of 2014 seniors. By working in with many offices and departments this event provided a 'one-stop-shop' for the approximately 200 graduating students in attendance who had the opportunity to order their caps and gowns, check in with financial aid, and ask graduation related questions of the numerous offices in attendance.



Co-Sponsored Events

Dance Marathon

This year, Salve Regina University hosted its second annual Dance Marathon in support of



Hasbro Children's Hospital. Our Student Government Association participated by starting a team and raising money for the cause as well as supporting the event by sponsoring T-shirts for the participants. By standing for 18 hours in support of those that can't, the Student Government Association contributed to the \$7,500 total raised by the Salve Regina community in support of the Children's Miracle Network.

Special Olympics

Along with many other clubs & organizations from the Salve Regina community, the Student Government Association volunteered at this year's Special Olympics.

Representatives assisted in Olympic Town creating pennants with athletes and their families. Year after year this event provides Senators and Executive Board members an opportunity to interact with athletes and other student leaders from the Salve and local communities.



VII. Leadership Development & Training

Rhode Island Colleges & Universities Student Government Summit

Representatives from the Student Government Association attended Rhode Island's first state-wide Student Government Summit at Roger Williams University on Sunday, February 9, 2014. Salve representatives joined with students from the Community College of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, Brown University, Johnson and Wales University, as well as the Rhode Island School of Design. Student Government Association members from all

institutions discussed matters of campus life, student government and leadership, campus activities, safety and security, and communication between faculty, staff, administration and students. Representatives from all universities collaborated on ways to enhance the student experience with an emphasis on creating stronger ties with off-campus and commuting students. Additionally, the Student Government Summit allowed student leaders to unify, strengthen their relationships, and encourage one and another on making positive changes on the individual and state-wide level.

VIII. Areas of Continuing Improvement

Despite exciting success within this academic year the Student Government Association recognizes several areas for further development as well as ongoing projects that will continue into the next academic year. Moving forward SGA hopes to:

- Continue to develop strong relationships with administration, faculty, staff, and other students on behalf of the student body.
- Expand the role of the student voice within the University, develop the Student Governments relationship with the Board of Trustees and continue to identify outlets for student involvement and feedback.
- Increase awareness of the Student Government Association, its purpose, services, and available resources.
- Strengthen and formalize collaboration with other areas of the Salve community, particularly Academic Affairs.

The Student Government Association has undertaken the following projects that remain in progress:

- Promote the assurance our students' safety and security through installation of additional emergency blue lights on campus.
- Encourage of our students' academic endeavors by placing a printer in the lower level of Miley Hall, as well as adding office supplies to the Miley Mart offerings.
- Support international and other long-distance students by providing opportunities to secure meals over breaks.
- ➤ Bolster student satisfaction, particularly for commuters, by including a microwave in the lower level Miley Hall.
- ➤ Continue to support the timely implementation of the Involvement Software, CampusLabs[™].

IX. Acknowledgements

The work outlined herein on behalf of the student body would not be possible without the support of a whole host of individuals and teams across campus. Each accomplishment was enabled by the students' willingness to provide their voice, the student representatives' ability to unify that voice, and the administration's willingness to hear and respond to that voice. The Student Government Association, in representation of the student body, offers special thanks to:

Dr. Jane Gerety RSM, President

Dr. M. Therese Antone RSM, Chancellor

Dr. Margaret Higgins, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Dean de la Motte, Provost/ Dean of Faculty

Mr. William Hall, Vice President for Administration/CFO

Dr. Leona Misto RSM, Vice President for Mission Integration

Mr. Michael Semenza, Vice President for University Relations and Advancement

Dr. James Ludes, Executive Director of the Pell Center

Mr. Thomas Brennan, Associate Vice President for Technology/CIO

Mr. Michael Grandchamp, Associate Vice President for Finance/Controller

Ms. Kristine Hendrickson, Associate Vice President for University Relations/CCO

Ms. Diane Blanchette, Associate Vice President for Human Resources

Dr. Donna Cook, Assistant Provost for Academic Administration

Ms. Ducha Hang, Assistant Vice President for Student Development

Mr. J. Malcolm Smith, Dean of Students

Dr. Laura O'Toole, Dean of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Traci Warrington, Dean of Professional Studies

Ms. Colleen Emerson, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions

Particular thanks for their work with SGA committees and liaisons to:

Mr. Tom Blaney, Fitness Center Manager

Mr. David Dawson, Director of Counseling Services & Interim Director of Health Services

Ms. Jennifer Jensen, Assistant Dean of Students

Mr. Larry Kestler, Transportation Services Coordinator

Dr. Johnelle Luciani RSM, Social Work Department Chair

Mr. John Mixter, Director of Safety and Security

Dr. Sami Nassim, Director of Multicultural Programs

Mr. Mark Rodrigues, Sodexo General Manager

Ms. Kelly Scafariello, Associate Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator

Mr. Colin Sullivan, Director of Athletics

Ms. Dawn Emsellem Wichowski, Research and Instruction Librarian

Special recognition for unwavering support and dedication with each project and throughout the year goes to our Advisor, Heather Barbour, Director of Student Activities.